

Registered UK Charity No: 274499

SCOT

Newsletter

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF TAMILS IN SRI LANKA & PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR THEIR SECURE FUTURE.

Welcome to the first SCOT Newsletter of 2020. As well as an update on the 2020 SCOT Tamil New Year Lunch, this edition contains a reminder of our continuing mission and mode of delivery, news of successful projects and interventions in pursuit of that mission, and ways that you can support future project opportunities already identified and suggest new ones.

Education | Employment | Empowerment The mission continues...

Our mission, as restated in 2019, is to enable and encourage sustainable development and self-sufficiency for as many people as possible in north and east Sri Lanka by focusing on the **3E's**:

Education: Improve learning environments, improve student outcomes

Employment: Increase work opportunities, increase family incomes

Empowerment: Integrate the marginalised into community and economy

“as wherever we roam our mother home we’ll ever hold most dear”
SCOT President 2020

To succeed in this mission, SCOT gratefully rely on the resources provided by you, our members and well-wishers. Your time and funding are of course vital inputs. But equally vital is access to your experience, expertise and contacts in the UK, Sri Lanka and elsewhere. Indeed, SCOT stand out amongst charities helping the needy in Sri Lanka for the knowledge that we bring to bear from a broad range of professions, life experiences and Sri Lankan localities.

Through our work to date, SCOT have established an approach to making best use of your time, funds and knowledge in delivering the projects we support, which is summed up as:

Professionalise: Turn deserving ideas into workable projects

Pilot: Prove project viability on a small scale while learning to scale up

Promote: Get others to support proven projects so they can grow beyond us



BREAKING NEWS To find out more about what we are doing and how you can help, please visit our new website at www.scot-uk.org.uk, which will be launched on **26 April 2020**.

SCOT Tamil New Year Lunch 2020 cancelled due to COVID-19

SCOT's General Council have taken the painful decision to cancel this year's Tamil New Year Lunch & Lecture due to the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus (novel coronavirus) affecting the UK. Read the President's letter to members for more of the reasoning behind this.

Recent Accomplishments.....

Outlined briefly below are some of the successful projects falling within our prioritised 3E's programme that we have funded during the last 24 months. To find out more about them, please visit our new website at www.scot-uk.org.uk

Education

Training English Teachers: To improve the English language proficiency of students, SCOT carried out a very successful project (2018-19) to train and mentor 16 English teachers through the British Council (BC) in Jaffna so they could train other teachers of English. These Teacher-Trainers have now trained 50 of their colleagues under BC guidance. Educational Development Forum Sri Lanka (EDFSL) and the Provincial Education Department of the North (PED-N) helped SCOT to fund and deliver this project. PED-N are taking steps to train the remaining 680 English teachers at their own cost with the help of the 16 Teacher-Trainers over the next three years. (SCOT-EDFSL spent £34,000; a further £2,000 earmarked for monitoring PED-N's future training activities)



Children of Returnee Families to Myliddy & Palaly:

These families, who were pushed out of their homes / farms by the SL air force about 25 years ago, had been languishing in different districts with very limited livelihood. SCOT is supporting St Anthony's parish church's efforts to provide education for their children (146 in number), including a catch-up programme to bring many of them in different age groups to the appropriate levels. (SCOT's contribution: £5,500; already paid £2,700 in 2019 and the rest to pay after review of progress and effectiveness)



IT Training for Poor Children in Rural Kilinochchi: 100 children living in and around Visvamadu were given 12 months of training in 2018. The training was conducted by specialists from Centre for Child Development, Kokuvil. (SCOT provided £3,375 for this project)

Employment

Drip Irrigation: SCOT pioneered a demonstration farm (vegetables) in Vanni and examined improved cultivation practices during 2014-17. The resulting findings and recommendations are being taken up by local organisations, fine-tuned and passed on to small groups of farmers in different villages. Since 2018, the total number of beneficiaries has exceeded 250. (SCOT's funding: £14,000)



Cucumber crop of a small-holder farmer using SCOT funded drip irrigation in Tharmapuram, Kilinochchi District

Empowerment

Children in Homes / Orphanages: SCOT has been contributing to the operation of selected 3-5 orphanages / children's homes every year in the North and East since 1990. (SCOT's contribution: a total of £4,000 - £6,500 each year)



↑ Girls at Vivekanada Girl's Home Batticaloa (Above)

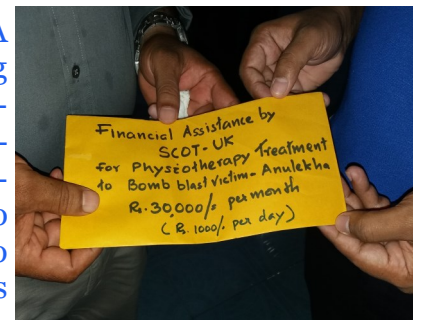


← Boys at Hari Children's Home Batticaloa (Left)

Support to Easter bomb (Zion Church Batticaloa) victims:

SCOT have supported the efforts of the Association for the Educational Development of the Underprivileged (AEDU) Batticaloa. A few victims needed long term physiotherapy in Colombo General Hospital - post-operative recovery following major injuries - to regain their capabilities to function normally. (SCOT's contribution: £2,000)

↓ Injured patient (Below)



↑ Financial assistance (Above)

Flood relief in the North-East: Heavy, frequent rains in December 2019 brought severe flooding in a number of poor villages in the Vaharai and Kiran areas in Batticaloa district and 4 villages around Irranamadu kulam in the North. A few people and many livestock were lost. Damages to the houses/ huts were considerable. SCOT gave immediate relief (dry rations, in-



↑ Flood relief (Below)

fant milk products, sanitary towels, mosquito nets etc) to the affected families in two of the worst affected villages and have agreed to provide funding for limited rehabilitation of infrastructure so that they could resume their normal life and livelihood soon. (SCOT's total funding: £3,700)

Please return counterfoil by **15th May 2020** to Mr AB Alphonsus, 34 Davenham Avenue, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3HQ



Draw Date: Sunday 17 May 2020
1st Prize £200.00 | 2nd Prize £100.00 | 3rd Prize £50.00

Draw Venue: The Northolt Village Community Centre, Northolt Village UB5 6AD

New Opportunities

SCOT's strategy for supporting the needy is to act as a catalyst to help benefits reach much wider communities via a roll-on effect, where local organisations and foreign based charities replicate successful pilot projects that SCOT have carried out.

SCOT are now looking both to build on our recent accomplishments and to find new opportunities amongst needy communities in the North, East and in Malayaham, where our funding and/or technical support can advance our mission focused on the 3E's. Promising projects we are considering include:

Education, Employment - ICT skills: SCOT are in discussions with a US registered Tamil charity that is successfully training students to use ICT effectively to further their education and employability. This currently focuses on three age groups in Mullaitivu District: primary school children, secondary school children and school dropouts following their GCE O-Level or A-Level exams. We are exploring whether these pilot models could be replicated by SCOT in another district in the North as well in the East and in Malayaham.

Education – Training English teachers in the East: We are exploring ways to implement a project similar to the one being carried out in the North. The main drawback is that there is no British Council presence in the East. There is a need to put pressure on the British Council Country Office in Colombo and its head office in London to establish a branch office in Batticaloa.

Employment - Establishing a coconut oil extraction mill: A multipurpose cooperative society has established a new processing mill in Palai and is approaching SCOT for the initial operating funds as a loan. Many people in the Palai region are involved in cultivating coconuts in plots ranging from home gardens to large plantations, and this new mill, by processing these coconuts locally, would increase local job opportunities and income.

To see more potential projects, please visit our new website at www.scot-uk.org.uk SCOT welcome suggestions from you for new projects and better ways of delivering them. You can send them to us at infoscotuk@gmail.com

Help SCOT to do more for the needy in Sri Lanka

To repeat, SCOT relies on your support to make a difference to our disadvantaged and dispossessed brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka. Here are some of the ways in which you can help us to help them:

- In the absence of SCOT Tamil New Year Lunch ticket sales this year, please buy and/or sell as many of the enclosed raffle tickets as you can – **draw will be held in May 2020.**
- Please encourage your family and friends to become members of SCOT – we are a **member-driven** organisation and the larger we are, the more influence we can have.
- Please come to **SCOT events and meetings** – we want to hear your views and get to know you better, while also spending quality time with you and having some fun.
- Please **share your time**, experience, expertise, contacts and suggestions with SCOT – it is you and your input that make us strong and help make the difference.
- Please consider increasing your monthly **membership contribution** – every penny helps and can go a long way in Sri Lanka.
- Please consider **donating money to SCOT** – the UK government will give Gift Aid in proportion to your donation, which will make your money go significantly further.

Thank you for all your support